say comments of the Orissa Government are not there? It is all on the file. *(Interruptions)...*

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA; No. *(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have not signed, that is what he says. The Government has not signed. *(Interruptions)...*

DR. YELAMANCHILI SHIVAJI; No Sir. He says that there is no remark of the Orissa Government on the file. The remarks of the Andhra Pradesh Govem-ment and the Orissa Government are on the file. *(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did the Governments agree?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: No, Sir. As far as our records show there are no comments of the Orissa Government. *(Interruptions)...*

DR. YELAMANCHILI SHIVAJI: Both the Chief Ministers agreed and an assurance was given by the then Prime Minister. *(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Narayanasamy.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I may deviate a little from the question because the very important thing is that the Krishna Water Scheme between Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu was cleared when Indiraji was the Prime Minister and the project was taken up. Now the Water Resources Ministry is there. Now, the Madras city is short of water, Sir. Therefore, I would like to know what the drink-irig water scheme is. *(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it connected with the question? *(Interruptions)...*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I sought your permission. Sir, I want a drinking water scheme. *(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does it arise in this question? *(Interruptions)..*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I sought your permission. *(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Question No. 106

Decline in the transportation capacity of railways

*106. SARDAR JAGJIT SINGHAURORA;
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that transportation capacity of railways has come down during the year 1990-91;

(b) whether it is also a fact that income of Railways has also gone down as a result of decline in transportation;

(c) if so, what was the total reduction or increase in the goods transported during the year 1990-91 as compared *to th*e year 1989-90 and 1988-89; and

(d) what was the extent of decrease in earned income of Railways on account of transportation in the year 1990-91 as compared to the year 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The information is tabulated below? (in million tonnes)

Year	Revenue earning traffic	Total freight traffic
1988-89	302 .	329.5
1989-90 .	310 "	334.5
1990-91 .	318.5	341.0

(d) There was no decrease in earned, income in the year 1990-91 as compared to 1989-90.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: My question is whether the figures produced by you are in accordance with your planning, that you were going to produce 318 or 341 million tonnes of freight traffic, or are they below, the projections

t The Question was actually asked on the flour of the House by Sardar Jagjit Singh Aurora.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Gas and Coal Based sponge iron plants

*107. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas-based and coal-based sponge iron plants which are in operation in the country at present;

(b) the name of the multinationals supplying technology to these plants;

(c) whether Government propose to permit more sponge iron plants, if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to set up a sponge iron plant in Tamil Nadu using magnetic iron ore; and

(e) whether it is a fact that multinationals from United States and Germany have offered technology to put up sponge iron plants and whether Government have evaluated their performance in this field and if so. what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a) At present there are 5 coal-based and one gas-based sponge iron plants in operation in the country.

(b) The coal-based plants are based on the technology supplied by M/s. Lurgi GmbH, Germany, Allis Chalmers Corporation, USA and Mannesmann Demag, Germany (formerly M/s. Krupp). The gas-based plant is based on the technology supplied by M/s. Midrex International, Netherland.

(c) The sponge iron industry has been delicensed subject to certain locational restrictions and many entrepreneurs have restrictions and many entrepreneurs have plants in the country.

(d) Government is not considering any proposal at present for establishment of a sponge iron plant in Tamil Nadu using Magnetic iron ore.

(e) Sponge iron plants (both coal-based and gas-based) have been implemented with technology supplied by multi-national companies including those the United States and Germany Some more plants based on such technologies are under implementation. Applications of Indian companies seeking foreign technical collaboration are examined on case-to-case basis and approval issued depending upon the need for foreign technology, suitability of the technology proposed and the terms and conditions transfer.

Expert review implementation of the Sardar Sarover Project

@*108. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE;

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has started an independent expert review of the implementation of the Sardar Sarover Project following protests by Indian environmentalists;

(b) if so, what is the progress in this regard and whether work on the project has been suspended due to this review;

(c) whether the World Bank has further decided to extend the credit rating of the projects by one year; and

(d) if so, what is, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir, an independent review of the implementation of the Sardar Sarovar Project has been initiated by the World Bank.

(b) The work on the Project is proceeding as per schedule. The work of review has not yet commenced.

©Previously Starred Question 48 transferred from 16th July, 1991.